



**FIFTH REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE
USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND
ON THEIR DESTRUCTION**

Siem Reap, 25 – 29 November 2024

**Statement by Germany under Agenda item 6 – *Renewing the political commitment to the
Convention***

Mr. President,

Germany fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union. I would like to add some additional remarks in my national capacity.

Let me start by congratulating and thanking you, Mr. President, for inviting us for this year's review conference to your beautiful country. Assuming the presidency and hosting it here in Siem Reap is an **invaluable contribution by the people of Cambodia to strengthen the convention** and work towards further progress in implementing it.

While the Convention remains both, a ground-breaking disarmament treaty as well as a cornerstone of international humanitarian law, **we are meeting at a time where even humanitarian arms control instruments are getting under pressure**. Consequently, our responsibility to work towards defending, strengthening and implementing this indispensable instrument for our common fight against anti-personnel mines worldwide is higher than ever.

Germany remains a staunch supporter of the Ottawa-Convention and continues to fulfil its obligations under the convention. **Last year, Germany has significantly reduced the amount of its anti-personnel mines: The number was cut down by more than half, down to 113 anti-personnel mines.** Germany exclusively employs these remaining anti-personnel mines for training and research purposes permitted by the Convention and consequently works on reducing the number of its anti-personnel mines further. To do so, we are developing alternative methods, wherever possible, to conduct research and testing of mine clearance procedures.

Mr. President,

In spring 2023, German Federal President Steinmeier visited mine fields here in Cambodia and saw first-hand how the presence of explosive ordnance heavily impacts the lives of local people up to this day.

Germany commends all States Parties that are actively fulfilling their clearance obligations under this Convention. We are well aware of both challenges and costs of fulfilling clearance obligations. Yet clearing contaminated areas is key for saving lives and providing concrete benefits to the people.

In the last two years, Germany contributed over 140 million Euros to support the convention which makes us the second-largest bilateral donor in this field. This funding has been used

- to provide rehabilitation services to a shepherd who had been struck by a mine.
- We have funded innovative survey and detection technology as well as
- supported the development of mine action strategies in some of our 11 priority countries.

Mr. President,

This is the right moment to **commend our brave deminers in the field and their colleagues in the implementing organizations** – we pay tribute especially to those who have lost their lives or were injured while working for the safety of others.

It is proof of our continued support that **just earlier this year, the Federal Foreign Office has published its new strategy on humanitarian mine action**. We will **continue to put an emphasis on gender-sensitivity and inclusiveness of our programs**. This includes the training of female deminers, as well as ensuring that women, elderly, children and other groups are taken into account with their specific needs in our mine action programs.

Germany will continue its engagement and calls on all partners in a position to do so to support convention members in fulfilling their obligations to clear landmines, assist victims and prevent further accidents.

Mr. President,

The increase in the **number of casualties in 2023** stated by the landmine monitor published just days ago is a matter of deep concern. **We are concerned about new contaminations in countries such as Myanmar and North Korea**. Germany strongly condemns **Russia's unjustifiable, unprovoked and illegal war of aggression against Ukraine** and the use of anti-personnel mines which is leading to severe contamination with landmines and explosive remnants of war in Ukraine. The Russian war of aggression against Ukraine has already caused too many casualties and we regret very much that our own Convention seems to become a victim as well.

Mr. President,

The obligations of the Convention apply to both – times of peace and times of war. Article 1 is very clear: State parties must neither use nor develop, produce, otherwise acquire, stockpile, retain or transfer anti-personnel mines. Any of these actions by a state party is a violation of international obligations, under any circumstances. **We call on all state parties to uphold and fulfil their obligations under the convention.**

Germany reiterates the importance to ensure the protection of all civilians in line with international humanitarian law. International humanitarian law must be fully respected by all parties to an armed conflict at all times.

Thank you, Mr. President.